

CZECHIA AS GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2026

Press newsletter October 2025

A country on the coast? A country on the coast!

„ANTIGONUS.

Thou art perfect, then, our ship hath touch'd upon

The deserts of Bohemia?"

Shakespeare: The Winter's Tale

Despite the fact that the Kingdom of Bohemia and Czechia have always been landlocked throughout their history, William Shakespeare placed them on the coast in his play "The Winter's Tale." A geographical joke? Or perhaps a mistake made by a genius?

The opposite is true—it is a timeless metaphor: Shakespeare's canonical text identified the country as an integral part of the global ocean of literature. And Czech literature has lived up to this vision through its own humor, breaking stereotypes, and the ability to see itself as others see it. Although the largest body of water in the real Czechia is Lake Lipno, with an area of only 49 square kilometers, the country conveys the feeling of riding the same wave as the infinite expanse of world culture, washed by the tide of an invisible sea of mutual inspiration. That is why "Czechia – A Country on the Coast" is the theme and central metaphor for the Guest of Honour appearance at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2026.

The official video spot for the Czech Republic's guest of honor appearance can be found [here](#).

Please contact us if you would like further information, review copies, or if we can arrange interviews for you!

Events

30.10. - 16.11.2025

**Tschechisch-Deutsche Kulturtage in and around Dresden and
Ústí nad Labem**

[Here](#) you can find the diverse program

06.11.2025, 7-8:30 pm

Leipzig meets Brno 2025:

[Literary meeting of the fellowship recipients of the partner cities' residence program](#)

Claudia Rikl and Pavel Brycz, moderation: Martin Krafl

PartnerStadtQuartier, Leipzig

Book tips

Josef Škvorecký: „Die Traurigkeit des Chefinspektors“
(Braumüller Verlag, translated by Hanna Vintr)

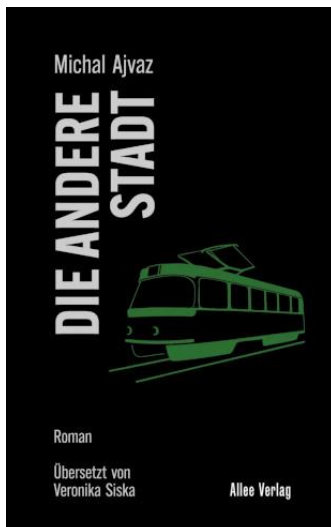


How could someone shoot a dancer in a communal shower without being noticed? Who murdered the mountaineer on a rugged rock face? Who killed the evil old woman in her apartment crammed full of antiques? Was it really the helpful neighbor who confessed to the crime? But the old woman's room was locked from the inside! Chief Inspector Josef Borůvka of the Czechoslovak Criminal Police must have supernatural powers—otherwise his colleagues cannot explain how this plump, shy, middle-aged man solves even the most complicated cases with confidence and criminological brilliance. There's also a little love story: Will the sedate chief inspector and the young, attractive policewoman with the graceful swan neck find each other in the end?

The award-winning author was considered a contender for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982.

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

Michal Ajvaz: „Die andere Stadt“
(Allee Verlag, translated by Veronika Siska)



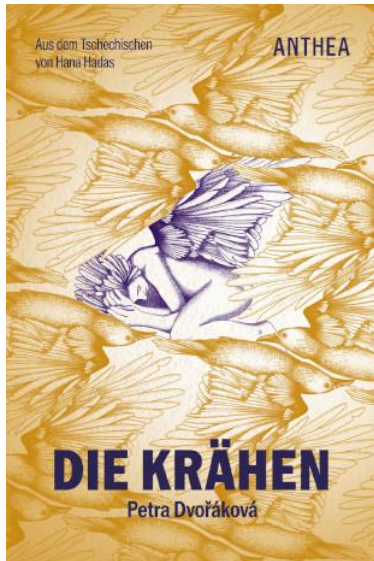
On the shelves of an antique bookshop in Prague, the narrator comes across a strange book—written in an unknown script and apparently originating from another, hidden city that exists in the shadows and reflections of Prague. Step by step, the protagonist penetrates its labyrinth-like network, only to discover that the closer he thinks he is getting to its center, the further it recedes.

With the precision of a philosopher and the imagination of a surrealist, Michal Ajvaz creates a world in which reality and dreams merge seamlessly. „Die andere Stadt“ is an odyssey through the borderlands of perception, inspired by the German-language Prague literature of Gustav Meyrink and Alfred Kubin, but also indebted to the fantastical expansiveness and mazy thinking of Jorge Luis Borges – and at the same time a contemporary, unmistakable vision.

The novel was first published in Czech in 1993 and is now available in German translation for the first time. It marks the beginning of Ajvaz's extensive complete works of fiction, which will be published in the coming years by Allee Verlag, founded in 2024.

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

Petra Dvořáková: „Die Krähen“
(Anthea Verlag, translated by Hana Hadas)



In „Die Krähen“, Petra Dvořáková tells the story of a girl who grows up in a family where violence and fear are part of everyday life. From the perspective of the child and the mother, a multi-layered picture emerges of how relationships can both provide stability and destroy. With a keen sense of nuance and psychological depth, the novel unfolds a depressing yet touching panorama of life in the supposedly safe space of the family. An impressive voice in contemporary Czech literature.

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

Jakub Plachý: „Schaut, ein Elefant!“
(Rotopol, translated by Katharina Hinderer)



A blue elephant loves to play soccer. And he would love it even more if he could play with the other elephants. If only his cage didn't prevent him from going out. But what's this? The bars are coming apart! Let's get out onto the field to join the other elephants. He plays well, really well! And he's having fun! Go, blue elephant!

With poetically abstract drawings and playful lightness, Czech artist Jakub Plachý tells the timeless story of the search for freedom and the feeling of belonging in his picture book.

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

About the Guest of Honour

Czechia is the Guest of Honour of the Frankfurt Book Fair 2026. The Guest of Honour appearance is being organised by the Moravian Library in Brno and its Czech Literature Centre section. It is being financed by public funds from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and is implemented with the support of PPF Foundation. Partner of the Year of Czech Culture and Guest of Honour is Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds / Česko-německý fond budoucnosti. The Frankfurt Book Fair, which will take place from October 7 to 11, 2026, is the world's largest trade fair for publishing. The Guest of Honour presents its literature and culture at the fair, in the city of Frankfurt, and at many other locations in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Czechia's Guest of Honour appearance is themed "Czechia – A Country on the Coast."

<https://czechia2026.com/>

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